

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed August 22, 2006 has been carefully considered.
Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Subject Matter Indicated Allowed or Allowable

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claim 14, 16 and 17.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Howell (U.S. pat. no. 4,631,622). Claims 1 and 19 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. The rejection thereof is moot.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 2-12 and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Howell (U.S. pat. no. 4,631,622) in view of Benmouyal et al. (U.S. pat. no. 6,757,146). Claims 2-12 have now been amended to depend, directly or indirectly, from Claim 14, which was indicated to be allowable. Claims 2-12 are now therefore allowable as well at least for the same reason. Claims 20-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claims 13 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Howell (U.S. pat. no. 4,631,622) in view of Andersen (U.S. pat. no. 6,282,499). Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Claim 15 has been amended to depend from Claim 14, which was indicated to be allowable. Claim 15 is now therefore allowable as well at least for the same reason.

Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Howell (U.S. pat. no. 4,631,622). Claim 18 has been amended to depend from Claim 14, which was indicated to be allowable. Claim 18 is now therefore allowable as well at least for the same reason.

Conclusion

In view of the preceding discussion, Applicants respectfully urge that the claims of the present application define patentable subject matter and should be passed to allowance.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone call would help advance prosecution of the present invention, the Examiner is kindly invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number below.

Please charge any additional required fees, including those necessary to obtain extensions of time to render timely the filing of the instant Amendment and/or Reply to Office Action, or credit any overpayment not otherwise credited, to our deposit account no. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, L.L.P.

Dated: 11/22/2006



Khaled Shami
Reg. No. 38,745

Thelen Reid & Priest LLP
P.O. Box 640640
San Jose, CA 95164-0640
Tel. (408) 282-1855
Fax. (408) 287-8040